Purchase of Tobacco outside the Auction Platform

3166. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vigilance squad of Tobacco Board raided the premises of traders who purchased Tobacco outside the auction platforms;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the erring companies; and

(d) what action has been taken and whether it was announced to the public; if not, what prevented Government to do?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) During 1993 Andhra Pradesh auctions, the vigilance squad of the Tobacco Board conducted raids on the premises of tobacco traders and detected tobacco suspected to have been purchased outside the auction platforms in forty cases.

Show cause notices have been issued to the traders involved. In two cases buyers' authorisations have been suspended. Further details of cases where a prima facie case is made out and the action taken against them are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Annual Turnover of STC

3167. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual turnover of the State Trading Corporation during each of the past three years;

(b) what is the present level of trade handled by STC with Russia and other former Soviet Republics and what steps are being taken to regain the old level of the trade; and

(c) what other new avenues are being explored by STC to gain the lost ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Annual total turnover of STC during each of the past three years is given below:

	(Rs. Crores)
1990-91	1756.00
1991-92	1315.00
1992-93	1013.00

(b) STC's trade with Russia and other CIS countries during each of the past three years is indicated below:—

	Exports (fob)	(Rs. Crores) Imports (cif)
1990-91	45.10	74.73
1991-92	13.10	65.64
1992-93	21.59	3.20

The steps taken by STC for increasing its trade with Russia and other CIS countries include the following:

Barter trade through Escrow account mechanism Consignment sale/stock and sale of fast moving items like tea. Brand promotion.

(c) The total turnover of STC declined from Rs. 1,756 crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 1,013 crores during 1992-93. The decline in turnover was mainly due to lower canalised turnover consequent on decanalisation of certain export/import items and the reduced import of edible oils. Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC, Govt. have been reviewing the need to restructure STC in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and the competitive environment. STC itself is in the process of formulating and implementing plans and strategies to adapt to the current environment laying greater emphasis on noncanalised exports and imports, to create captive supply base and tie-up arrangements with a number of established industrial houses in the country.

Organisation of Indian Trade Fair at Muscat

3168. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item published in THE STATESMAN, dated 20-7-93 captioned 120 Indian firms for Muscut Trade Fair;

(b) whether steps are being taken to tone up the functioning of ITPO;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large portion of time and administrative effort is focussed on foreign tour and travel of top management;